

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 27-32 are pending. Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 have been amended. Claims 27-32 have been added. Support for the new claims and claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 4, 11, 27, 29 and 31 are in independent form.

Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action (page 2, paragraph 2) stated that the “claims do not provide an input signal of [*sic*, on] which to perform the speech signal processing and do not provide a specific useful output.”

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 have been amended. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims comply with Section 101. (It is noted that the claims no longer recite a speech signal processing apparatus or method. It is submitted that it would be evident to one of ordinary skill in the art, based on the subject matter recited in the claims, that the inventions to which the claims are directed are “useful,” as required under Section 101.) Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the application.

SECOND REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY-CITED DOCUMENT

The Third Information Disclosure Statement, timely filed on June 15, 2001, cited fourteen documents, which were submitted therewith. In the Office Action dated October 23, 2003 (including Forms PTO-892 attached thereto), the Examiner acknowledged consideration of all of the cited documents (including pending U.S. patent applications not listed on Form PTO-1449), except for U.S. Patent Application No. 08/739,013. That application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,662,159. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate in the next official communication that that reference has been considered, either by issuing a Form PTO-892 or by returning an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449, on which U.S. Patent No. 6,662,159 is listed.

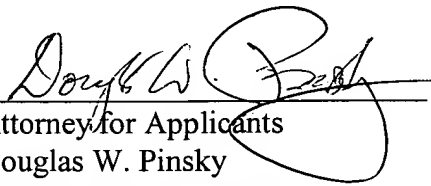
Applicants made this request in the Amendment and Request for Consideration of Previously-cited Document filed on April 5, 2005. However, Applicants did not receive an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 or any other response to their request. Accordingly, this Second Request is being filed.

It is noted that a copy of the date-stamped postcard, indicating receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Third Information Disclosure Statement, the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and the fourteen cited documents, was submitted with the Request filed on April 5, 2005.

It is noted that U.S. Patent Application No. 08/739,013 as originally submitted, as well as the Third Information Disclosure Statement and the copy of the date-stamped postcard, are contained in the IFW of the subject application, as verified by PAIR.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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